

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 5-13 are pending in this application, with Claim 5 being the sole independent claim.

Claim 5 has been amended.

Claims 5-9 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,327,600 (Satoh et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,735,699 (Sasaki et al.). Claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Satoh et al. and Sasaki et al. in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,671,277 (Ikenoue et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 5, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of receiving a copyright registration request of a copyright holder, which is for registering copyright of data, transmitting a registration fee request to a device that issued the copyright registration request, and in response to consent to pay the registration fee, embedding an electronic watermark in the data. With these features, the owner of copyright in data can easily register the copyright information and, upon consent to pay a fee, have an electronic watermark embedded in the data. For example, the owner of the copyright in a photo can publish the photo on a website and register the copyright information so that an electronic watermark is embedded in the photo.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 5. Satoh discloses a system for managing the use of data for which copyright information is registered. That patent discloses determining whether data

that a user applies to use includes a pay part, inquiring whether the user wishes to pay the fee indicated in the pay part, and embedding copyright management information. (See, Col. 4, lines 19-24; col. 6, lines 31-36; col. 18, lines 55-60; and col. 19, lines 13-15.)

Sasaki discloses sending a warning to a user who does not pay a registration fee in spite of a request for payment.

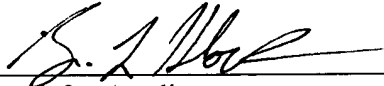
Taken together, however, at most those two cited patents discloses a system where a user applies to use data, a request for fee for the usage of the data is transmitted to the user, the user consents to pay the fee, and an electronic watermark is embedded in the data sent to the user. There is nothing in either of those patents, or in the proposed combination, that would teach or suggest the claimed features of receiving a copyright registration request of a copyright owner, transmitting a registration fee request to the device that issued the registration request (i.e., the device used by the copyright holder), and embedding an electronic watermark in the data in response to consent to pay the fee. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in Claim 5 is patentable over the cited art, whether that art is considered individually or taken in combination.

The dependent claims are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as Claim 5, as well as for the additional features they recite.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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